lighting systems are proposed to be installed/ distributed during the year 1993-94 under the Socially Oriented and Market Oriented Schemes.

(c) and (d) In the State of Gujarat, the following solar photovoltaic lighting systems have been installed as on 31-3-1993 :

Street Lighting Systems	:	1563
Domestic Lighting Systems	:	370
Community Lighting/TV Systems	:	51
Photovoltaic Power Plants for lighting and other applications		3

Rural Electrification by Solar Energy

630. SHRI KRISHNA LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that solar power is the cheapest way to electrify the villages of the country as compared to conventional sources;

(b) if so, the number of villages electrified through solar energy;

(c) the steps being taken to boost the use of solar power in the country; and

(d) future plan of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR):

(a) The electrification of small and remotely located villages by solar power is economically viable, as compared to conventional sources.

(b) A total of 9443 villages in different States/UTs have been provided with solar lighting systems under the Solar photovoltaic programme.

(c) and (d) A new strategy and Action Plan for large scale utilisation of solar power in the country through further research and development, industrial production and commercialisation has been prepared. New schemes with socially oriented and market oriented approaches are being introduced. Under these schemes, over 1 lakh solar lighting systems, 1000 solar water pumping systems and 100 village level power plants are proposed to be established during 1993-94.

Candidates in Civil Services Examinations 1992

631. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the total number of candidates appeared in the 1992 UPSC Civil Services Examination;

(b) how many of them have qualified and were recommended for appointment;

(c) the number of SC and ST who have been recommended for appointment; and

(d) whether reservation to OBC by Mandal Commission had been adhered to by Government; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Number of candidates appeared in 1992 UPSC Civil Services Examination (Main): 10302

(b) Number of candidates qualified and recommended for appointment: 761

(c) Number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe who have been recommended for appointment : SC-128
ST- 59

(d) Whether reservation to OBC by Mandal Commission had been adhered to by Govt.; if not the reasons therefor ?

The rules for the Civil Services Examination, 1992 were notified on 28th December, 1991. Since the rules did not provide for any reservation to Other Backward Classes, no reservation to OBCs was made in the Civil Services Examination, 1992.

Revision of Scale of Assistants

632. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned the scale of Rs. 1640—2900 to the Assistants including in CSS;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on them and the number of employees benefited pursuant to this action;

(c) whether Government have received representations from other employees holding the previous scale of Rs. 1400—2600 for

sanctioning the scale of Rs. 1640—2900 to them also; and

(d) what action the Ministry of Finance have taken or propose to take to meet the demands of such Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. The scale of Rs. 1640—2900 has been sanctioned to the Assistants of the Central Secretariat Service.

(b) The information regarding expenditure incurred and number of employees benefited is maintained by respertive cadre controlling authorities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Finance has stated that the revision of scale in the case of Assistants of the Central Secretariat Service was made with a view to set right, in accordance with the prescribed procedures, an anomaly in the scale of pay as recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission, and since there is no such anomaly in the scales of pay of other employees there is no question of giving them the revised scale of Rs. 1640—2900.

Medical Insurance Scheme for Pensioners

633. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce Medical Insurance Scheme for Pensioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) The question of evolving a medical insurance scheme for civilian pensioners was considered in the last meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare on 22nd April, 1993 and in pursuance of these discussions, a sub-committee of SCOVA has been constituted to study the matter further and make suitable recommendations for consideration by SCOVA.

Reservation for Women in Civil Services

634. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide 30 per cent reservation for women in civil services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) There is a proposal under consideration for providing 30 per cent sub-reservation for women in respect of services and posts where reservation exists or will be provided for in future.

Guidelines for furnishing information to MPs

635. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines issued to various departments, State Governments and public sector units regarding furnishing information to Members of Parliament when if the same is sought; and

(b) what are the protocol procedures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The guidelines for furnishing information to Members of Parliament, as given in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure are that Communications received from MPs should be attended to promptly. Normally, information sought by a Member should be supplied unless it is of such a nature that it would have been denied to him even if asked for on the floor of the House of Parliament. These guidelines are required to be followed by all the Min./Depts. of the Govt. of India and the Public Sector